

THE MORNING NEWS

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Tropicana Resort and Trop Casino hosting "Battle of the Snack Trucks" 2013

Returning after a highly successful inaugural event last year is Battle of the Snack Trucks II! Tropicana Resort and Trop Casino initiated the event offering a true taste of authentic local cuisine. Snack trucks are the islander's favorite way to relieve the late night munchies after an evening event or clubbing, and now island visitors will have a perfect opportunity to discover why.

Co-sponsoring the event are Presidente Beer, distributed on Aruba by Aruba Trading Company and Tropical Bottling. Both will have refreshment stands offering their beverages at bargain prices. Tropicana Resort Executive Administrative Assistant Jacqueline Filiciana confirmed they have at least one dozen snack trucks signed up to compete.

All the funds garnered from staging this fun event in the parking lot of the Trop Casino will be donated to the Wilhelmina Cancer Founda-



tion, which assists patients needing treatment, particularly when they must travel abroad. During the evening, a roster of Aruba's most popular bands, including Youth Extreme, Rincon Boyz, Bachata Mambo, Le Groove, Upgrade Music, Sonic Lab and Honey Pot will be performing over the weekend, for a festive, fun event.

The snack trucks will be performing their best culinary acrobatics will competing for 5,000 Aruban florins in

prizes. Returning to defend their title will be last year's winner, Snack Truck Tia Rosa. Others who have confirmed their participation are Piet Super Snack, Gio JJ Burger, Ricuras, Chalo Burger, Il Buongusto, Candela Grill, Cocolishi Street Food, and Just pa Menciona un Par y Pone. The panel of three judges will include local and international celebrities.

The Battle of the Snack Trucks will take place on Friday and Saturday, October 25 and 26, beginning at 6:00 PM. Friday's event will end at 11:00 PM and on Saturday, it will last until 1:00 AM. Entrance is free, and food and beverage tickets can be purchased on site.

Tropicana Resort and Trop Casino invite all to come and be immersed in Aruban culture and cuisine for an exciting night of food, fun, music and dance.

Continued on page 6

Lawmakers scatter as shots fired outside US Capitol

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Shots rang out outside the US Capitol building as police intercepted a speeding driver yesterday, sending lawmakers and tourists scattering for cover and triggering a massive security operation.

Police said the car's driver

had attempted to get past a barrier outside the White House, just over a mile away, and she was then pursued across downtown Washington, eventually being cornered by police.

Amateur footage obtained by broadcasters showed a black car boxed in at close range by

gun-bearing officers near the Capitol building, but the driver executed a sharp U-turn and sped away in an apparent bid to escape. The car was stopped soon afterwards and a child was said to be inside.

"There was a vehicle in the vicinity of the White House

that apparently attempted to pass a barricade," Capitol Police chief Kim Dine said after a briefly instituted security lockdown was lifted. "That vehicle was attempted to be stopped by Secret Service, uniformed division."

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An authentic taste of the Caribbean cuisine now at Jamaica Mi Irie



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The word "irie" has a plethora of meanings in Jamaican culture, from pure nirvana to feeling well satisfied, and patrons

will certainly feel at least the latter after a visit to Aruba's only authentic Jamaican restaurant, the newly opened Jamaica Mi Irie in San Nicolas.

The kitchen is the beloved effort of well known island chef, Jeffrey Roy Elliott, the master in the kitchen of Elliott's Italian restaurant adjacent to Costa Linda. Jeffrey has gone back to his Jamaican roots for this enthu-



Jeffrey Elliott and wife Daisy

siastic effort with his wife Daisy, who loves being the happy hostess. The regular menu features the traditional cuisine such as Jerk Chicken, Fried Chicken, Beef oxtail, Stewed Pork, Jerk Pork, Fried Fish plus a house specialty, Curried Goat. These are regular items, but Jeffrey prefers to pepper his menu with various "Specials of the Day" made from what is fresh and seasonal.

This very cute, cozy place is open for lunch and dinner daily, except Sundays and Mondays, from 11:00 AM until 10:00 PM. It is located directly across from the BSL Laundry on Captain Rodgerstraat, which runs along the refinery wall parallel to the San Nicolas main street.

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Vacation during school time not allowed!

ORANJESTAD -- The law on mandatory education is applicable to days of school vacation as approved by the Minister of Education. The October vacation for school year 2013-2014 is October 7 to October 11. To stay away from school without permission is considered prohibited absenteeism. By this is meant, arriving consistently late, skipping school, or going on vacation during the school period.

Luxury Absenteeism:

A student who falls under the mandatory education law, who stays away from school with-

out permission before or after a vacation, is considered taking luxury absenteeism. Students who are absent without proper notice will be reported to the school Head who in turn will report this to the Bureau of Mandatory Education.

No student is allowed to take a vacation before the assigned vacation period, nor is it permissible to take vacation after the legal vacation period when school has resumed. The Bureau will take drastic measures with respect to the luxury absenteeism. Parents, citizens, students and schools must get this important message.

Reasons	Must present some form of proof	Day
On the wedding day of a family of the student in the first second or third grade <i>Family levels:</i> First level: parents Second level: grandparents, siblings Third level: great grandparents, cousins, uncles, aunts, nieces and nephews	Formal letter or copy of the invitation card	1 day
On the day that parents, foster parents or grandparents celebrate 25, 40, 50 or 60th wedding anniversary	Formal letter; copy of the marriage book or invitation card	1 day
In the event of a serious illness of parents, foster parents or grandparents of the student	Formal letter; doctor's letter/AZV	1 day
In the event of the death of parent, guardian or family member of the student up to the third grade.	Formal letter; copy of death announcement	1 day
Family moves to other location.	Formal letter; copy of census registration of new address	1 day

Possibility for dispensation for the following reasons:

Those who do not adhere to the mandatory education law will experience the consequences and will be fined between Afls. 250 up to a maximum of Afls. 2.500.

No dispensation is allowed in these cases:

- * For a club activity
- * Go on vacation during non vacation days (for example when there are special vacation offers during low season)
- * To visit family during non-vacation days
- * To meet grand/great grandparents for the first time after many years

- * Dispensation for one child because the other sibling is at home
- * Because the child must care for a parent/grandparent or other family member
- * The argument that the child is still very young and staying home from school will not affect him
- * The argument that in the last days of school no classes are given anyway
- * The argument: "we did not know there was an mandatory education law"
- * The argument: "family from abroad came to vacation on Aruba"

Cont. on pg 4

KIA and CEA personnel now better prepared for today's challenges!



Director of Cuerpo Especial Arubano (CEA) - Aruba Special Forces, Ronny Geerman Head of Police Training and Development Division (Police Academy), mr. Jeannette Richardson-Baars; Teacher Integral vocational skills, Frank van der Lende; and the 11 graduates of the Aruba Penitentiary Services (DGA) and CEA.

Just recently some 11 persons of the Penitentiary Administrative Service (DGA) and the Special Aruban Forces (CEA) received their certificate for the successful completion of a special course: Basisopleiding Intern Bijstandsteam Gevangeniswezen - Basic Internal Penitentiary Assistance Team. The Aruba Police Academy developed the course and offered it in cooperation with

Aruba's Correctional Institute (KIA) and CEA.

Teachers of the Police Academy gave the basic course in the form of part time during four weeks, three times per week from August 19 to September 13. Various disciplines were offered, such as physical and mental training, group dynamic and bonding, basic mobile unit formation and the ability to provide special assis-

tance on internal procedures.

The group also followed an advance course which focussed on topics such as special weapons and how to perform special safe transportation of high danger. The Aruba Penitentiary Service now have well qualified personnel who are capable of doing high risk transportation and to act accordingly in cases of disturbances or calamities at the KIA.

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2013 Program for Dengue Control is underway

ORANJESTAD- The Department of Public Health (DESPA) notifies the community that it has begun its annual campaign "Sin criadero no tin sangura, sin sangura no tin dengue" - "With no breeding ground there is no mosquito - without mosquitoes, there is no dengue."

It is very important NOT to give the Aedes aegypti mosquito the chance to reproduce. DESPA's focus is to inform islanders about Dengue, its effects, what to do if contracting dengue, but most importantly, how to prevent dengue entirely.

The best ways to prevent dengue is to inhibit the breeding of the mosquito that carries the disease. Be very conscientious in disposing of empty bottles and other garbage in properly closed trash cans that will not collect water. Empty containers strewn about can collect water, and the mosquitoes can lay their eggs in tiny amounts in bottle caps. Dispose of water in saucers under plant pots, in wheel barrows, old appliances left in the open and other objects where rainwater can collect. Be particularly aware that

Aedes aegypti breed in clean water, such as pet bowls, but will not breed in muddy puddles. When throwing water away from a container, wash the container afterwards with soap and dry it, as the slightest water left behind provides a breeding ground. Fountains and pools in the garden can be protected by adding koi to the water to consume any mosquito eggs.

It is also important to place containers in a manner that it cannot be filled when it rains, and be aware of possible breed-

ing grounds inside the house. Change the water in vases with flowers or plant cuttings every other day. See if there is water in the tray under the refrigerator, if so clean it twice a week. Do a careful survey for objects inside the house that contain water and remove them, or dispose of it regularly and clean the containers thoroughly.

Dengue is a common viral infection spread by the mosquito Aedes aegypti. An infected human is bitten by a mosquito, the infected mosquito then bites another human, and the cycle continues. The female mosquito has a lifespan of more or less 30 days and lays her eggs (about 100) on the sides of containers with clean water. Eggs hatch into larvae after a rain or flooding. Alarva changes into a pupa in about a week and into a mosquito in two days. Eggs that have not hatched can survive 1 year without water. That is why it is important to get rid of all eggs. Once immersed in just a little bit of water they can hatch into adult Aedes aegypti mosquitoes - which carries one of the 4 types of Dengue virus - transmits and causes Dengue fever.

Dengue infections are caused by four closely related viruses, which are called serotypes because each has different interactions with the antibodies in human blood serum. Initial contraction of the virus can cause high fever, headaches, aching joints and usually, a lot of pain around the eyes, differentiating it from typical flu symptoms. In milder cases it can simply mimic the



influenza virus. Once contracted, a person has antibodies that prevent them from being infected by the same strain ever again. However, since there are four different strains, a new strain can react catastrophically with antibodies present in a victim.

DESPA, the Department of Yellow Fever Mosquito Control (GKMB) and the Infectious Diseases Services (DBZ) asks the entire population to visit the internet page on dengue: www.dengue.aw to obtain more information on how to prevent breeding grounds. Without breeding ground there is no mosquito. The web page also gives tips on what to do to avoid being infected with dengue and what to do in case of contracting the disease. It has complete information about dengue and its symptoms and several helpful suggestions regarding prevention.

For more information readers may visit the website or call the Department of Public Health (DESPA), the Infectious Diseases Services (DBZ) at tel. 522-4200 or the Yellow Fever Mosquito Control (GKMB) at tel. 585-3325 / 585-5533

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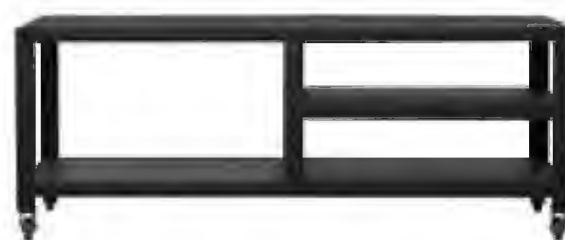
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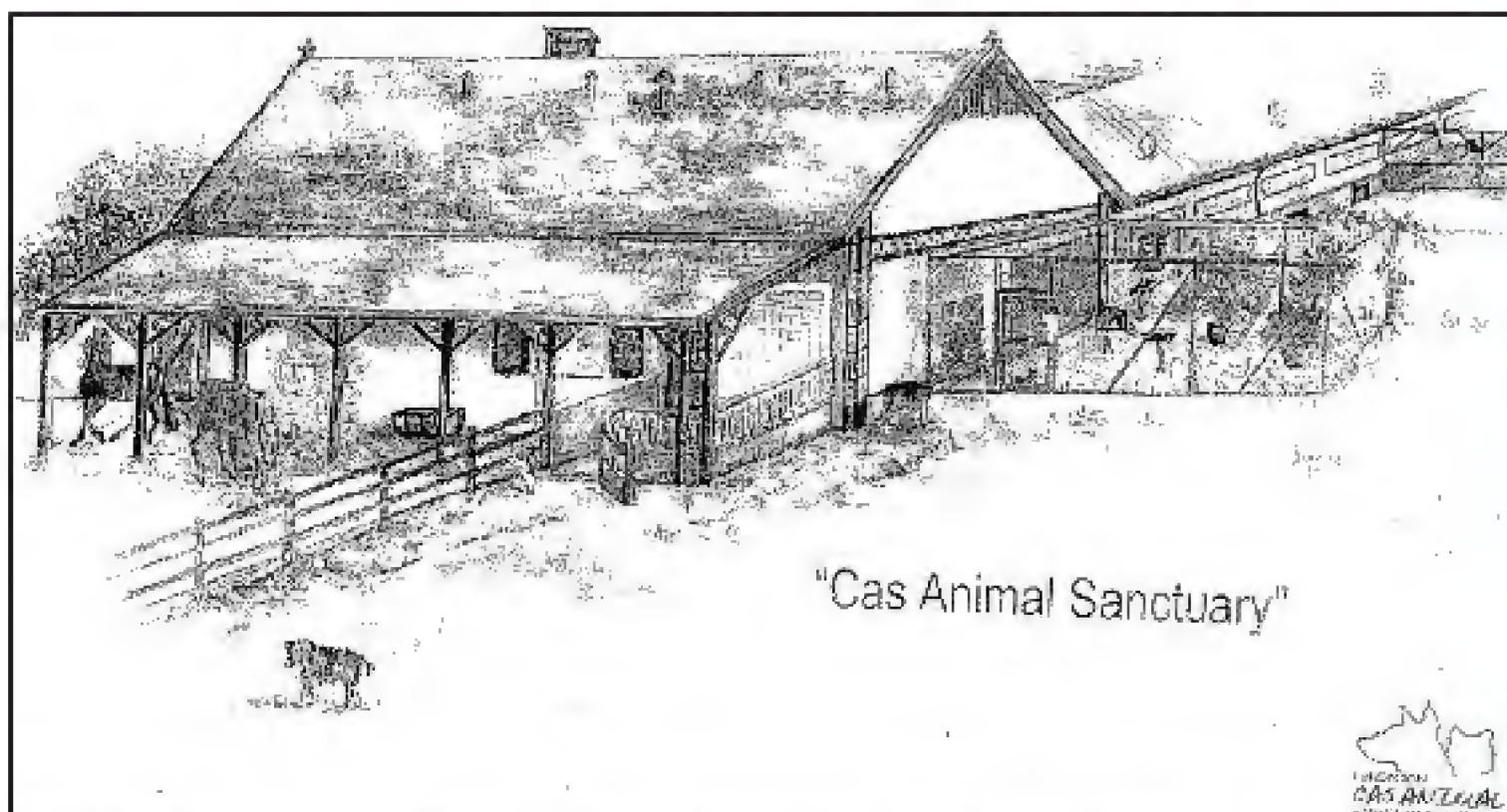
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"The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated."

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Help Aruba on its way to a state of the art no-kill dog shelter during the Cas Animal Foundation Fundraising Golf Tournament this Saturday



Island visitors will be happy to know there is a volunteer agency working diligently to save Aruba's many stray and abandoned dogs and cats. Cas Animal Foundation, founded by Kirsten Arndt, maintains and animal ambulance and has rescued hundreds of animals, nursing them back to health and facilitating their adoption into good homes both on island and abroad.

Presently, Kirsten has kept a number of the dogs in her two houses; those are too old or "not pretty enough" to find a foster home. Her ultimate mission is to build a state of the art shelter that will house up to 300 dogs and cats. It has been designed by a master architect and will be fully enclosed and air-conditioned, running on renewable energies such as solar and wind power. There will be spacious kennels and an onsite clinic and coffee shop for visitors.

Everything is in readiness to break ground. Those who care about the dog and wish to support the cause can do so in the most pleasant manner: this is the weekend of the annual Cas Animal Fundraising Golf Tournament at the Tierra Del Sol Golf Course and Country Club, taking place tomorrow, October 5.

TDS and Head Golf Pro Adam Williamson have always been staunch supporters of Cas Animal and its cause, as have the kind sponsors of the event. Among them are Bucuti Beach Resort & Tara Suites, La Cabana Beach Resort, Gemstones International, Tiara Air, Westin, Paperworks, Manchebo Resort, Aruba Bank, Banco di Caribe, CMB Bank, Price-WaterhouseCoopers, SETAR N.V., Colombian Emeralds, Royal Plaza Mall, KIA and Nissan car dealerships, AFD, Playa Linda Resort, Radisson Resort, Buster's Garage Sport Bar, Kooyman, Diamonds International, Animal Care Clinic, Contreras Clinic, Fatum Insurance, Kool-Temp and Divi Resorts, to name a few.

The tournament is a two-man scramble and begins at 12:30 PM. There will be a light buffet provided by Ventanas Del Mar and cash bar afterwards. Registration fee is \$85 U.S. and can be made online by contacting Adam Williamson at teetime@tierradelisol.com or by calling 586-0978. Excellent prizes such as weekend stays at top resorts, airline tickets and fine jewelry, will be awarded to the winning team, also for

closest to the pin, longest drive and during the door prize raffle.

There is a chance for everyone to be a winner, but particularly Aruba, in the establishment of the first proper, no-kill shelter dog shelter in the Caribbean. Non-golfers can also support the work of Cas Animal, with donations in the form of payment to the Cas Animal Foundation account at the Contreras Veterinary Clinics, call: 587-0917, or to Animal Care Clinic in Paradera, phone number 582-8382. Donations can be made directly to the foundation's account: Cas Animal Foundation, CMB Bank account # 25762110. If you are not an island resident and wish to adopt a dog, or see one in distress, call Kiki at 742-8732 and she will help you through the process of acquiring the papers and a carrier needed to take home one of our sweet, affectionate cunucu dogs, who make excellent watch dogs, too. This is done regularly, and many happy owners find great pleasure in being reminded every day of Aruba by the loving new members of their households.

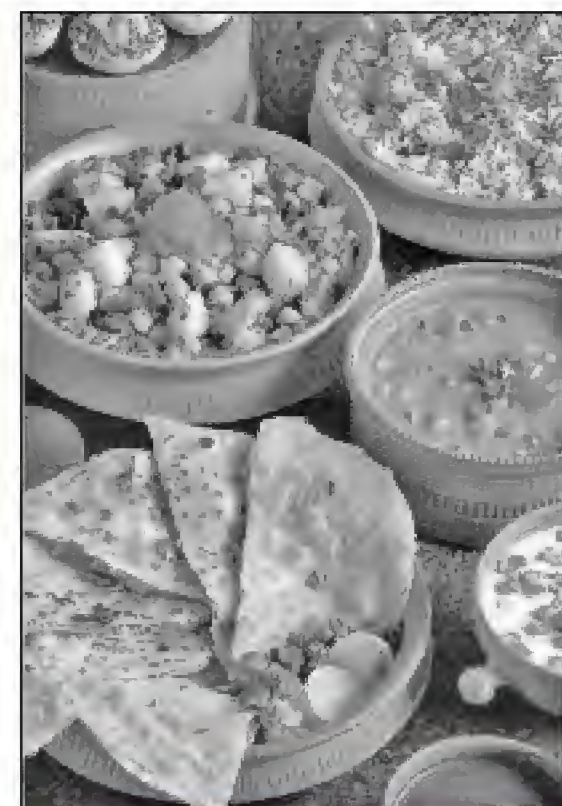
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Advice to all passengers travelling to the US in the coming days:
Please check-in 3 to 4 hours prior your flight!

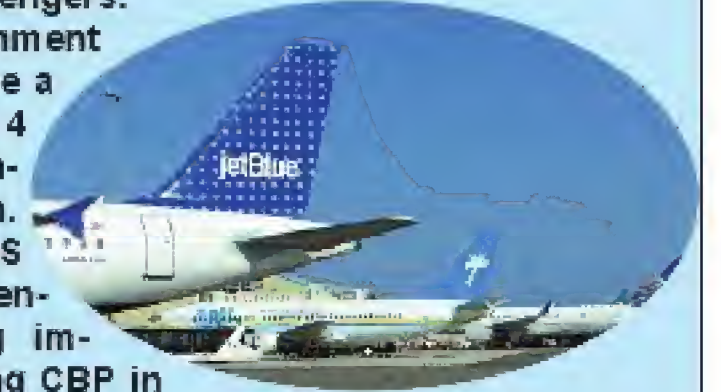
ORANJESTAD – Aruba Airport Authority N.V. (AAA) hereby advises all passengers flying to the US in the coming days to check-in 3 to 4 hours prior their flight to be processed in time, as the US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) in Aruba is experiencing a delayed processing of passengers.

The US Government failed to produce a Fiscal Year 14 budget or continuing resolution. As such all US government agencies are being impacted, including CBP in

Aruba. CBP is currently in a furlough status and has several non-exempt employees that will not be at work until this is resolved. However, CBP Aruba will remain open and continue with their daily operational mission, but will be deploying fewer personnel.

Airline partners and AHATA have also been informed of the situation and were requested to cooperate in informing the passengers upon check-in of the situation to go through the process in time.

AAA will keep you informed of any other consequences or developments.



Vacation during school time not allowed

Continued from page 2

- * The argument: "a family member gave us free tickets to take a cruise trip"
- * The argument: "we won a free ticket for a trip or cruise"
- * The argument: "we bought this ticket one year ago"
- * The argument: "we have personal issues to take care off abroad and the children must come with us"
- * The argument: "we have no one to take care of the children when we are gone"



For more information, visit the website: www.ea.aw/leerplicht
The website will give you ample and detailed information on all aspects of the Mandatory Education Law.

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Diamonds International's lend-a-hand

As the largest jewelry retailer in the Caribbean, Diamonds International is a prominent feature in Caribbean life. The last quarter of a century has seen huge expansion from the company who have received a warm welcome in each island they have branched out to, including Aruba where they have been part of the economy for over 15 years.

Diamonds International feels it is their corporate responsibility to give back and support their islands, which is why they set-up a charity organization 'The Lend-A-Hand Projects' to do just that.

The Lend-A-Hand Projects is essentially a program established to help community/charity and environmental projects that need a helping hand. They offer their greatest attribute - their workforce, to worthy projects that need a few extra hands to get a job done.

This last Saturday, Diamonds International employees were proud participants in the first Lend-A-Hand Project in Aruba. The DI team donated their time to one of the local playgrounds at Centro di Bario Tanki Lendert to help clean, paint and improve the safety of its grounds. No corner was left untouched as the team worked hard through the day to complete the cleaning of the playground, repainting of the playground toys to bring it back to its former glory.

"Our company feels very strongly about embracing our local communities and supporting our island wherever we can. The true heroes of these projects are our employees who work with passion and show a beautiful team spirit to come together and get the job done. We are very proud of the work we do, and love to Lend-a-Hand wherever we can. We look forward to making an ongoing difference here in Aruba," says Keisha Williams, General Manager of Diamonds International.

Other Lend-A-Hand Projects in the Caribbean include, Belize - Queen Street Baptist Primary School in which together they gave eight classrooms a much needed facelift; Grand Cayman - Red Cross, project in which they collaborated with the Red Cross to clean out and organize four crates containing damaged hurricane supplies; Jamaica - Falmouth Public General Hospital,



project in which they lended a hand in a much needed clean up of the hospital; Honduras - Pirates Bay Clean Up, the volunteer team collected garbage and many other items that are harmful to the environment.

Diamonds International will continue with more projects in the Summer when the number of cruiseships reduces again.

To follow Diamonds International and their future projects on Facebook, please go to Diamonds International-Aruba.



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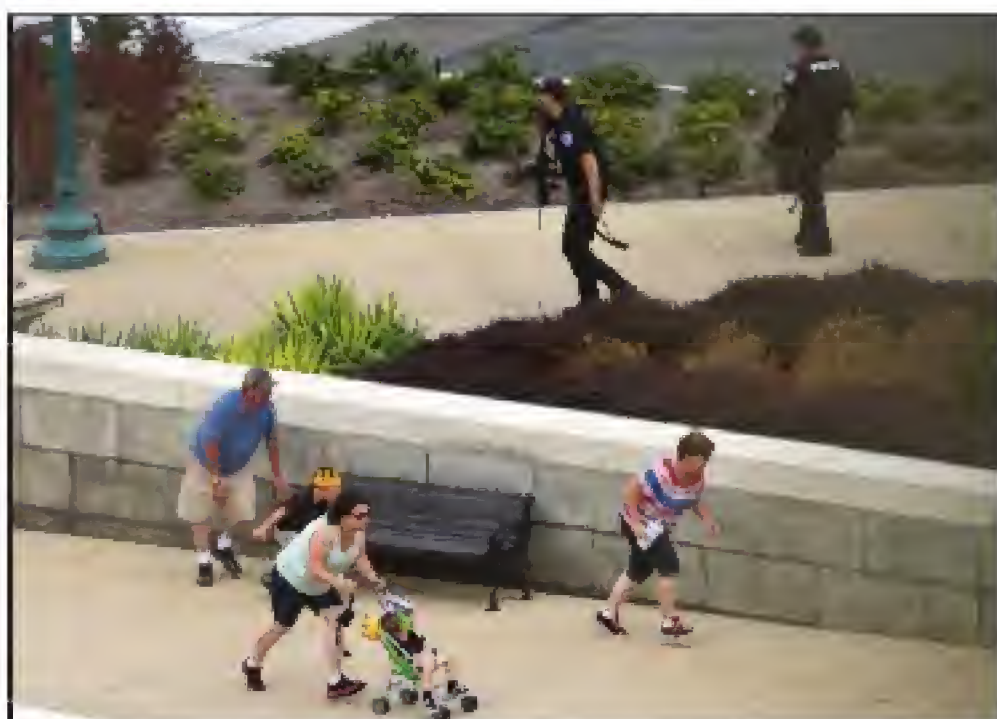
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Lawmakers scatter as shots fired outside US Capitol

Continued from page 1



WASHINGTON (AFP) -- Tourists flee as Capitol Police are seen outside of the Senate side of the Capitol Hill yesterday.

"Shots were potentially fired. They pursued the vehicle. The vehicle came, struck one of our

vehicles here," Dine said. "We have no information that this is related to terrorism or is any-

thing other than an isolated incident."

There was no official word on the condition of the suspect, although some US media reported that she was dead.

Dine, other officials and witnesses said the driver was believed to be a woman and that there was also a child in the car.

About half an hour after the incident began, the security lockdown at the Capitol was eased and the doors reopened. There were unconfirmed reports that the shooter was in custody.

The White House was also briefly placed in lockdown, with Secret Service agents in tactical gear deploying around the building. The security alert was later partially lifted.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Disaster officials warn New Orleans, Gulf coast over storm Karen



MIAMI (AFP) - Authorities on the Gulf Coast told residents yesterday to brace for a hit from Tropical Storm Karen, set to become the first named system to strike the United States this year.

President Barack Obama was briefed on disaster preparations, and his administration recalled hurricane emergency workers who had been furloughed due to a government shutdown.

A hurricane watch was in effect from Grand Isle, Louisiana, eastward to Indian Pass, Florida, forecasters said.

The city of New Orleans -- devastated by Hurricane Katrina in 2005 -- was under a tropical storm watch, according to the National Hurricane Center.

"Gulf Coast residents in potentially impacted areas should take steps now to be prepared and follow the direction of local officials," said Craig Fugate, head of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Households should stock up on essentials such as water, non-perishable food and medication, as well as cell phone chargers and extra batteries for

radios and flashlights, FEMA said.

Obama directed his team to ensure that federal resources and manpower needed to help state and local officials was in place, his spokesman Jay Carney said.

Karen -- expected to be at or near hurricane strength today -- could approach land within the hurricane watch area tomorrow, the Miami-based forecasters said.

The storm, situated in the southeastern part of the Gulf, was moving north-northwestward at 12 miles per hour.

"Some strengthening is possible in the next day or so and Karen is expected to approach the coast within the hurricane watch area tomorrow," the NHC said.

Due to a government shutdown sparked by a bitter budget impasse in Congress, some 800,000 federal workers from a wide swath of agencies were told to stay home earlier this week.

Karen was expected to trigger heavy rains over parts of western Cuba and the northeastern Yucatan Peninsula over the next day or so.



WASHINGTON (AFP) -- A protester has his mouth covered with a dollar bill during a demonstration in front of the US Capitol in Washington, DC, October yesterday, urging congress to end the federal government shutdown. US President Barack Obama yesterday directly attacked Republican Speaker John Boehner, saying he could end a "reckless" US government shutdown in just five minutes.



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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Over 130 dead in Italy migrant boat disaster

ROME (AFP) - Over 130 people drowned yesterday after a boat carrying up to 500 African asylum seekers caught fire and sank off Italian shores in one of the worst such disasters in the Mediterranean.

"There are 93 victims, including three children and two pregnant women," said Interior Minister Angelino Alfano, who flew to the remote island of Lampedusa near where the tragedy happened.

Rescue divers later said they had identified at least 40 more bodies in and around the sunken wreck at a depth of around 40 meters (130 feet), just a few hundred meters from the shore.

There were fears that the final toll could rise further to 300 or more people since rescuers said that only 151 survivors had been plucked from the water more than 11 hours after the disaster.

Lampedusa is one of the main entry points into the European Union for asylum-seek-

ers crossing from Africa or the eastern Mediterranean.

The bodies were being taken to a hangar at the local airport because there was no more room in the local morgue on the remote island, which has a population of around 6,000 people.

The UN estimates some 20,000 migrants have died at sea trying to reach Europe since the late 1990s, crossing on rickety fishing boats or dinghies.

Survivors said they were from Eritrea and Somalia and had left from the Libyan port of Misrata.

The migrants told rescuers they set fire to a blanket on the boat to attract the attention of coast guards after their vessel began taking on water and passing fishing boats ignored them.

The fire spread quickly, sowing panic on board which caused the boat to flip over and sink, as desperate passengers jumped into the water.

Arms experts see Syria progress, on-site inspections soon

DAMASCUS (AFP) - International experts preparing to destroy Syria's chemical weapons arsenal said they had made "encouraging" progress yesterday and expect to carry out on-site inspections within days.

UN Security Council Resolution 2118 was passed after gas attacks outside of Damascus killed hundreds in August, an atrocity that prompted the United States to threaten military strikes on Syria and later led to a rare US-Russian disarmament accord.

The Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and the United Nations said the inspectors, who

arrived on Tuesday, had made "encouraging initial progress" following a day of meeting with Syrian authorities.

"Documents handed over yesterday by the Syrian government look promising, according to team members, but further analysis, particularly of technical diagrams, will be necessary and some more questions remain to be answered," it said.

The team said it hopes to begin on-site inspections and the initial disabling of equipment "within the next week."

Nine experts, part of a 19-member team from The Hague-based OPCW, earlier left their Damascus hotel in

three cars, heading for an unknown destination.

The team faces a daunting task, as President Bashar al-Assad's regime is understood to have more than 1,000 tons of the nerve agent sarin, mustard gas and other banned weapons stored at dozens of sites.

Their immediate aim is to disable production sites by late October or early November using "expedient methods," including explosives, sledgehammers and pouring concrete, an OPCW official said.

It is the first mission in the organisation's history to be undertaken in a country embroiled in a civil war.

Russia charges all 30 Greenpeace activists with piracy

MOSCOW (AFP) - Russian investigators said yesterday they had charged all 30 crew members of Greenpeace's Arctic Sunrise ship with piracy over a protest against Arctic oil exploration, an offence that carries the risk of a lengthy prison term.

A court in the northern city of Murmansk last week detained the crew members including freelance journalists for two months pending an investigation into their protest on an oil platform owned by energy giant Gazprom.

"All 30 participants in the criminal case have been charged over the attack on the Pirazlomnaya platform," the Investigative Committee said in a statement. "They are all charged with... piracy committed by an organised group."

Piracy by an organised group carries a prison sentence of up to 15 years in Russia.



AFP photo shows a woman picking a cep mushroom in a wood near Saint-Bonnet-le-Froid, central France. For several years, forests in eastern and central France have been the targets of organized gangs of mushroom pickers, a traffic destined for Spain in particular, against which authorities and forest owners are trying to organize themselves.



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HEALTH & LIVING

Doctors still prescribe antibiotics too often: US study



WASHINGTON (AFP) - US doctors prescribe antibiotics to six out of 10 patients with a sore throat, even though only one infection in 10 is severe enough to merit them, researchers said Thursday.

Overprescribing of antibiotics is dangerous because it contributes to the rise of superbugs that do not respond to treatment.

US health officials have repeatedly warned that nearly all major bacterial infections in the world are becoming resistant to the antibiotic treatment of choice.

The latest study by Michael Barnett and Jeffrey Linder at Harvard University and Brigham and Women's Hospital included data on more than 8,100 visits to doctors' offices and emergency departments from 1997-2010.

Antibiotic prescribing rates were initially around 80 percent and have bottomed out at 60 percent for the past decade, said the research letter in the Journal of the American Medical Association.

"Among adults seeking care with sore throat, the prevalence of group A Strep-

tococcus (GAS) infection -- the only common cause of sore throat requiring antibiotics -- is about 10 percent," said the letter.

The research shows that despite concerns about rising resistance to antibiotics, physicians are not changing their habit of regularly prescribing remedies like penicillin, amoxicillin and erythromycin which may not be necessary.

"Despite decades of effort, we found only incremental improvement in antibiotic prescribing for adults making a visit with sore throat," said the letter in JAMA.

"The antibiotic prescribing rate dropped from roughly 80 percent to 70 percent around 1993 and dropped again around 2000 to 60 percent, where it has remained stable."

Researchers noted that their data did not include details on the severity of the sore throats, so it was impossible to judge whether the prescriptions given were appropriate.

"Antibiotic prescribing to patients who are unlikely to benefit is not benign. All antibiotic prescribing increases the prevalence of antibiotic-resistant bacteria," the doctors concluded.

"The financial cost of unnecessary antibiotic prescribing to adults with sore throat in the United States from 1997 to 2010 was conservatively \$500 million."

Hyundai cars to ditch cigarette lighter socket



SEOUL (AFP) - Hyundai Motor said Thursday it would stop putting cigarette lighter sockets in cars made for the domestic market in favour of a USB power point.

The South Korean auto giant said its decision would affect all passenger cars and SUVs sold at home from this month.

A company spokesman said the automaker was "the first auto company in the world" to make the change.

He said the company would survey consumers in other countries to see whether the change should be adopted elsewhere.

Hyundai's decision followed a domestic survey that showed many drivers used the lighter jack to charge mobile phones or tablet computers rather than for lighting cigarettes.

Car lighters themselves are no longer offered as standard in the United States and Europe, with the socket often treated instead as a general purpose auxiliary power source.

Hyundai said its in-car ashtrays would remain the same and smokers could buy a USB-powered cigarette lighter.

Hyundai, together with its smaller affiliate Kia, is the world's fifth-largest automaker. It sold 4.4 million cars worldwide in 2012.

The Wonders of Vinegar

From cooking and cleaning with vinegar, to gardening and home remedies, white distilled vinegar is one of the most versatile—and economical—products you can have on hand.

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GARDEN:

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* Wash fresh vegetables with a mixture of 1 tablespoon of white distilled vinegar in 1 ½ quarts of water.

CLEANING

* To shine chrome sink fixtures that have a lime buildup, use a paste made of 2 tablespoons salt and 1 teaspoon white distilled vinegar.

* Remove stains from coffee and teacups by scrubbing them gently with equal parts of salt (or baking soda) and white distilled vinegar. Rinse clean.

HEALTH

* For cuts and scrapes, use white distilled vinegar as an antiseptic.

* Eliminate bad breath and whiten your teeth by brushing them once or twice a



week with white distilled vinegar.

COOKING

* To make basic vinaigrette salad dressing use 1 part white distilled vinegar to 4 parts oil.

* Make onion odors disappear from your hands by rubbing with white distilled vinegar.

* Tenderize meat with white distilled vinegar. Use it in marinades or when slow cooking any tough, inexpensive cuts of meat.



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TECH-SCI

Scientists warn of 'deadly trio' risk to ailing oceans

PARIS (AFP) - Marine scientists warned Thursday that our oceans are declining more rapidly than previously thought -- becoming ever warmer and more acidic and losing oxygen at an alarming rate.

"We have been taking the ocean for granted," states a report that warns of a "deadly trio" of ocean warming, acidification, and oxygen loss.

"We are... exposing organisms to intolerable evolutionary pressure," it said. "The next mass (species) extinction event may have already begun."

The scientific review by the International Programme on the State of the Ocean (IPSO) and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature cautioned of unprecedented ocean acidification as humans keep burning oil and coal and pump out carbon dioxide (CO₂) -- about a third of which is absorbed by the sea.

Today's rate of carbon release, about 30 gigatonnes of CO₂ per year, was at least 10 times faster than that which preceded the last major species extinction on Earth about 55 million years ago, it said.

The level of ocean acidification is unparalleled in at least 300 million years, said the review released just a week after the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change said the ocean was absorbing more than 90 percent of the heat trapped on Earth by greenhouse gas emissions.

The new report said the average upper ocean temperature has increased by 0.6 degrees Celsius (1.08 deg Fahrenheit) over the last 100 years. Further warming will likely cause the disappearance of Arctic summer sea ice, further oxygen depletion and the release of Earth-warming methane trapped in the Arctic seabed.

It also warned of a fast drop in dissolved oxygen in seawater -- with predictions of a 1-7 percent decline by 2100 caused by the effects of global warming and nutrient runoff into the sea from agricultural fertilisers and sewage.

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Method for 'designer babies' in the ethical spotlight



PARIS (AFP) - European bioethicists raised the red flag Thursday over an American patent for a method that could allow people to choose genetic traits like eye colour in children sired from donor eggs or sperm.

The patent for what is called a "gamete (egg or sperm) donor selection" method, was granted by the US Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) to the firm 23andMe on September 24.

A description on the USPTO website said the "technique allows the potential gamete recipients to make more informed donor choices".

"What 23andMe is claiming is a method by which prospective donors of ova and/or sperm may be selected so as to increase the likelihood of producing a human baby with characteristics desired by the prospective parents," said the commentary

by medical ethicists from Belgium, the Netherlands and France published in the journal Genetics in Medicine.

This would be based on a computerised comparison of the genomic data of the egg provider with that of the sperm provider.

Characteristics on the parents' "shopping list" could include height, eye colour, muscle development, personality traits, or risk of developing certain types of cancer and other diseases, said the commentators.

A figure attached to the patent application would allow prospective parents to indicate whether "I prefer a child with": "longest expected life span", "least expected life cost of health care", or "least expected cumulative duration of hospitalisation", they said.

There were also options for "0% likely endurance ath-

lete" and "100 % likely sprinter", though the company had stated it could not guarantee the outcome but merely boost the chances of a child having the desired traits.

The commentators describe the method as "hugely ethically controversial" -- particularly as it allows for the selection of characteristics that have nothing to do with the child's health.

"At no stage during the examination of the patent application did the patent office examiner question whether techniques for facilitating the 'design' of future human babies were appropriate subject matter for a patent," they wrote.

The USPTO said it did not comment on issued patents.

23forMe said the patent, applied for more than five years ago, was for a tool dubbed Family Traits Inheritance Calculator that offered "an engaging way for you and your partner to see what kind of traits your child might inherit from you" -- from eye colour to whether the child will be able to perceive bitter taste or be lactose intolerant.

The language of the patent was much broader than the technology to support the calculator, the company said in a blog on its website.

"At the time 23andMe filed the patent, there was

consideration that the technology could have potential applications for fertility clinics, so language specific to the fertility treatment process was included," it said.

"The company never pursued the concepts discussed in the patent beyond our Family Traits Inheritance Calculator, nor do we have any plans to do so."

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COMICS

PICKLES



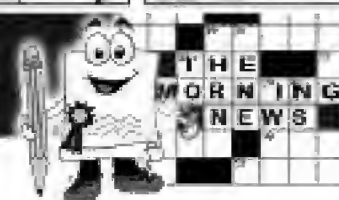
MOMMA



CALVIN and HOBBS



CROSSWORD



CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1. Film pooch
5. Cager Unseld
8. "True ____"
12. Cabbage dish
13. Doggy bag morsel
14. Took the subway
15. Buttonwood
17. "It's ____ blur" (2 wds.)
18. Charlotte of "The Facts of Life"
19. Strolls
21. Remained unsettled
24. Top soccer scorer Hamm
25. Lyric verses
26. Takes five (2 wds.)
30. Singular number
31. Scullery workers
33. SSW's opp.
34. Used a wireless
36. Tiny amount
37. Railroad unit
38. Emblem
40. Actress Rita ____
43. Grassland
44. Red-coated cheese
45. Las Vegas dancer
50. Former currency in Florence

51. Cereal grain
52. Director Kazan
53. New driver, usually
54. Fleur-de-____
55. Dispatched

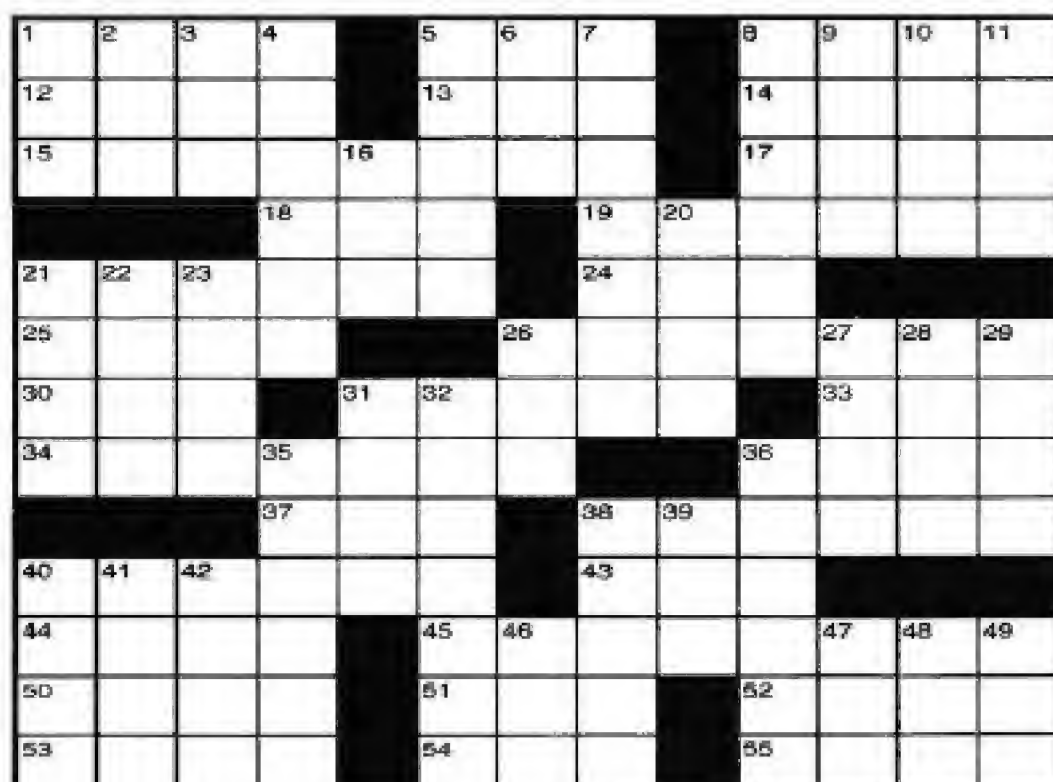
DOWN

1. Brayer on the farm
2. "You ____ dog!"
3. Sea-____ (Seattle airport)
4. Emmys, e.g.
5. Courted
6. Foul up
7. Pressure-cooked
8. Reach for greedily (2 wds.)
9. Bakery item
10. Not working
11. Chinese beverages
16. Daisy ____
20. Unmarried woman
21. Opposite of wealthy
22. ____ St. Vincent Millay
23. Something essential
26. Remove
27. Uppity one
28. Golden Rule word
29. Resound, as bells
31. Complain
32. ____ spray
35. Delivery person, once
36. Mirror sights
38. Narrow openings
39. Evergreen shrub
40. Tuna ____
41. "Garfield" character
42. Hard to find
46. "Bali ____"
47. ____ de France
48. "____ Tin Tin"
49. Nero's language (abbr.)

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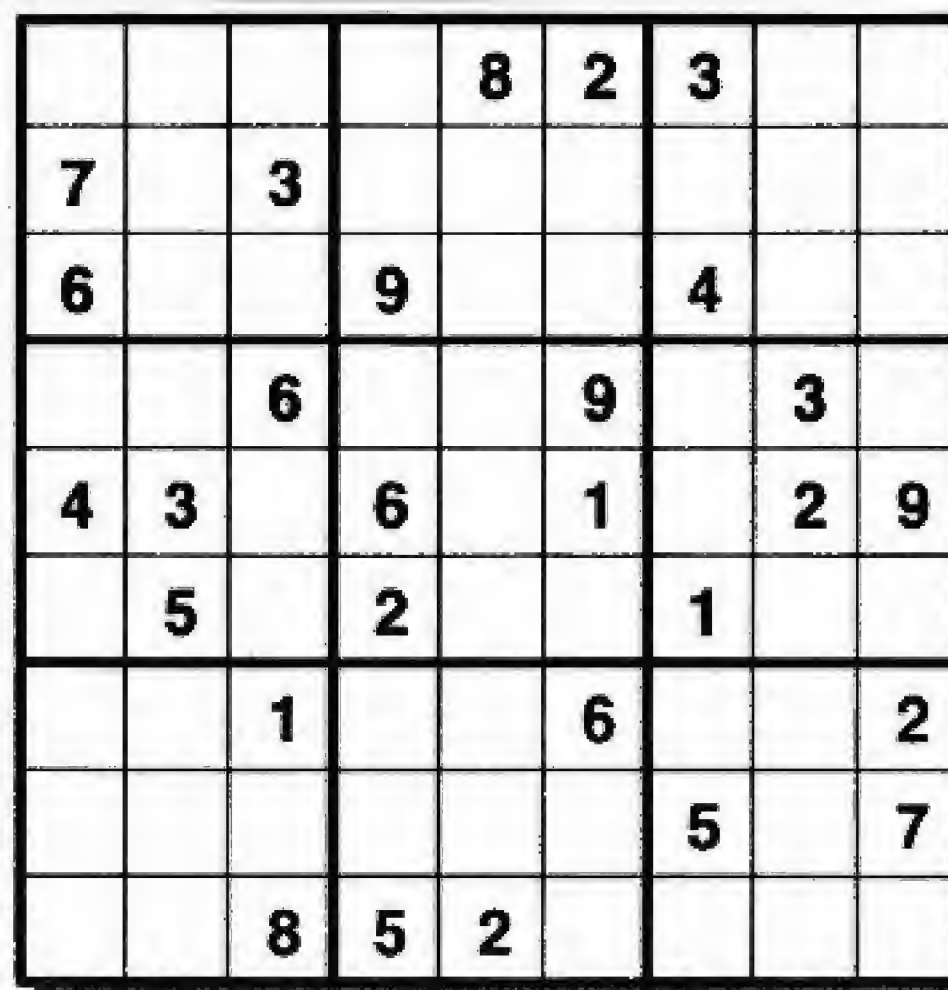
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Sudoku



SOLUTION

8	1	9	7	2	5	8	4	6
4	7	5	8	6	1	2	9	3
2	8	6	9	4	6	1	7	5
7	9	1	4	6	2	8	5	3
6	2	8	1	5	9	4	6	7
5	6	4	6	7	8	9	1	2
8	4	7	6	1	5	2	9	3
1	6	2	5	9	7	8	4	3
9	5	3	2	8	4	7	6	1

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9
A number is Never repeated in a row or column.
In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9

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FINANCE

Treasury: US default could be 'catastrophic'

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The US Treasury warned yesterday of a disastrous outcome if Congress's refusal to raise the country's borrowing ceiling forces it to default on obligations.

It said that the fallout could include returning to a recession as deep as that of 2008-2009, if its borrowing power is not increased by October 17, when it forecasts the government will exhaust its cash and be unable to pay all its bills.

"In the event that a debt limit impasse were to lead to a default, it could have a catastrophic effect on not just financial markets but also on job creation, consumer spending and economic growth," the Treasury said in a report.

"Credit markets could freeze, the value of the dollar could plummet, US interest rates could skyrocket, the negative spillovers could reverberate around the world, and there might be a financial crisis and recession that could echo the events of 2008 or worse."

The warning sent shudders through markets, with US stocks sinking yesterday, as the government passed the third day of a dramatic shutdown due to Congress's stalemate over a new budget.

That battle appeared more and more likely to be subsumed by a tense fight over the debt ceiling, and the Treasury warned strongly against "brinksmanship" that could carry the fight to or past the 17th.

"As we saw two years ago, prolonged uncertainty over whether our nation will pay its bills in full and on time hurts our economy," Treasury Secretary Jacob Lew said in a statement.

"Postponing a debt ceiling increase to the very last minute is exactly what our economy does not need -- a



self-inflicted wound harming families and businesses."

The government is already just barely operating below the \$16.7 trillion ceiling on the back of "extraordinary measures" carried out since May to meet a chronic deficit of about \$60 billion a month, according to the Treasury.

Those measures will be exhausted by October 17, leaving the Treasury with only a small amount of cash to meet constant payment obligations.

It said that the impasse in Congress over passing a new budget and raising the debt ceiling was already unnerving markets, echoing the fight over raising the limit two years ago.

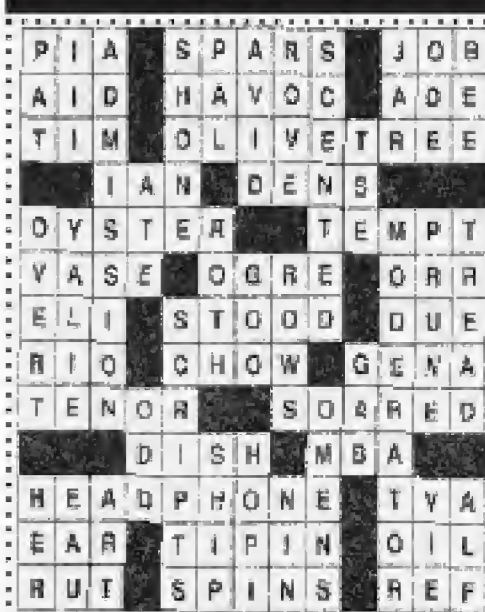
The July-August 2011 battle went to the brink of default and, though that did not happen, still saw the US triple-A credit rating cut by Standard & Poor's.

A senior Treasury official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said that even without a default, the 2011 debacle put "long-lasting scars" on the economy.

The official cited a decline in household wealth, a fall in business confidence, and a rise in loan rates for business and home buyers.

"Even the possibility of a

SATURDAY'S Crossword Answer



Daily Exchange Rates				
Current as of:	Currency Code	Buying rate banknotes	Buying Cheques	Selling Rate
03/10/2013				
U.S.A.	USD	1.77	1.78	1.80
Dutch Antilles	ANG	98.00	100.00	100.20
Canada	CAD	1.70	1.72	1.74
Britain	GBP	2.82	2.87	2.93
Switzerland	CHF	197.10	197.82	198.62
Netherlands	EUR	239.93	242.12	244.55
Sweden	SEK	27.10	27.82	28.62
Denmark	DKK	31.50	32.22	33.02
Norway	NOK	28.89	29.61	30.41
Japan	JPY	180.65	182.30	184.13
(per 10,000)				
All rates for amounts up to AWG 100.00 per item.				

Twitter files \$1 bn IPO, claims 218 m users

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Twitter revealed its highly anticipated stock offering yesterday, with the hugely popular messaging platform stating that it seeks to raise \$1 billion.

The California firm said it had 218 million active users as of June 30, and lost nearly \$80 million on nearly \$317 million in revenue in 2012.

The public version of the IPO filing came three weeks after the company indicated it had filed a confidential docu-

ment, taking advantage of a recent law designed to help emerging companies.

The company will trade under the symbol TWTR, the filing said, without indicating on which exchange the stock will be bought and sold.

The IPO is expected to be the most sought-after since Facebook in May 2012, a listing that faced numerous glitches on the Nasdaq and which saw its share price slump before recovering this year.

US stocks tumble on 3rd day of shutdown

NEW YORK CITY, October 3, 2013 (AFP) - US stocks suffered hefty losses Thursday as the partial government shutdown dragged through a third day and worries climbed that the budget battle could escalate into a debt default.

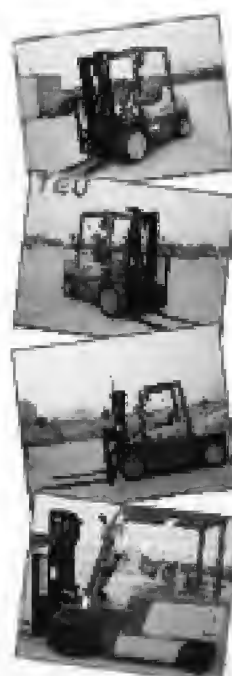
The Dow Jones Industrial Average dropped 136.66 points (0.90 percent) to 14,996.48.

The broad-based S&P 500 fell 15.21 (0.90 percent) to 1,678.66, while the tech-rich Nasdaq Composite Index tumbled 40.68 (1.07 percent) to 3,774.34.

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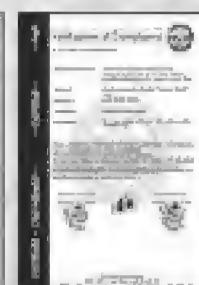
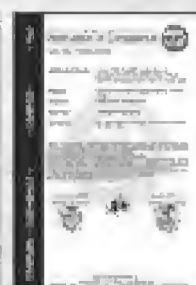
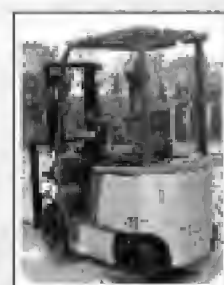
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Aruba and the UNESCO treaty to save our Immaterial Cultural Heritage



The traditional 'Trankera' made of cactus

Ever since obtaining its Status Aparte in 1986, Aruba has gone through many changes and developments within the past 25 years. The economy has grown, the traditional culture has changed, migrants have established on the island

background. This is what makes immaterial heritage unique and also fragile. Cultural heritage can also disappear without anyone noticing. Traditional craftsmanship such as the "trankera" construction of the old typical



Preseting the "Dande" at the closing of the year

and brought along their cultural heritage. Every year more than a million visitors come to the island. Globalization influences culture and the identity of Aruba and the question which arises is: "Who are we and what connects us to each other as a country?" And, "what is our cultural heritage and do we want to pass this on to the future?"

Cultural heritage is not something fixed such as a monument; it is sensitive to change. New elements come and old elements go to the

fencing can die when agriculture and livestock farming cease or when farmers die. Customs pass on from generation to generation. The question is whether we pay enough attention to this matter.

UNESCO has initiated a treaty to save cultural heritage around the world. The treaty has been approved in the general UNESCO conference in 2003 and was put into effect in April 2006. The Dutch Kingdom ratified the treaty in 2012 and in August 2012 this went into effect for

Aruba, Holland, Aruba, Curaçao and Sint Maarten work together wherever possible.

Goal of the treaty:

The primary goal of the treaty is to save our immaterial cultural heritage and the diversification of immaterial heritage worldwide. The treaty compiles what UNESCO understands under cultural heritage: the practice, presentation and expression, knowledge and instruments, tools, objects and cultural space associated with the community, groups, and individuals who recognize these as part of their cultural heritage.

UNESCO divides cultural heritage into five immaterial categories:

- (a) Oral Tradition and expression
- (b) Scenic Art (dance, music (theater))
- (c) Customs, ritual, festive events
- (d) Knowledge and practice of nature and universe
- (e) Profession and traditional craft

Obligation of the treaty: the community/cultural group are central.

Countries that have signed the treaty have taken the obligation and responsibility to uphold this. To comply, it is the community and not the government to carry it out. Countries must create conditions in their territories to save their cultural heritage.

Inventory

One of the obligations is to work on a National Inventory (art 11, 12). Groups must work together, organizations and non-governmental groups (art 11, 15). Groups must nominate a cultural heritage for their inventory. This must not be some static list but one that is representative of Aruba.

The Kingdom and the treaty

Ratification of the treaty is voluntary, there is no obligation to sign the treaty. However, once signed, implementation is obligatory. Countries are then obliged to create the infrastructure to facilitate implementation. In the case of Aruba, it meant founding an institution with



Carnaval

the task to implement the treaty and to create the opportunity for groups to nominate cultural immaterial heritage

every country wants the Kingdom to have access to this information.

For more information con-



"Fiesta di San Juan"



"Steelpan"

and to get help in doing so. Countries in the Dutch Kingdom have expressed the serious intention to work together as much as is possible. We are working towards creating a digital inventory so as to be uniform. In this way

tact the coordinator, Gina Jie Sam Foek at the Public Library at tel. 582-1580.

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5 Burgers Aruba: Now your best breakfast bargain!



Delicious Breakfast

-- A favorite stop for a great burger for lunch or dinner has just expanded their hours and menu to offer some of the best breakfast bargains to be found in Palm Beach. Owners Aaron and Rosie Walisever are living their dream: a home on paradise while welcoming all and

sundry to their proud undertaking. 5 Burgers Aruba. The couple's fanatical dedication to giving their customers what they really want has resulted in a unique menu from an internationally known franchise with a "5", which now includes breakfast.

"You never get a second chance to make a first impression," believes Aaron. Upon entering 5 Burgers Aruba in The Village Mall in Palm Beach, one is struck by utterly spotless surroundings and a smiling, friendly, attentive service crew. Of course, the main item on the menu is burgers-the way they were meant to be, thick and juicy, made fresh daily and 100% pure beef, the kind that made the hamburger a traditional American treat.

However, beginning at 7 a.m., patrons can now order 2

eggs any style, (omelets with 3 fillings are \$7.99) toast and coffee with unlimited refills for the special introductory price of only \$3.99, or All-you-can-eat pancakes for \$6.99! A new plate called the "Home Run" comes with 2 eggs, bacon or sausage, 2 pancakes, toast & home fries - for only \$9.99! Best of all - unlimited coffee or tea - that is, refillable and never ending is only \$.79! Breakfast is served from 8am until noon. Famous for their fries made from fresh potatoes, Aaron has been working for months on devising the most irresistible home fries recipe, chunky and tender with skins still on; after much testing and tasting, he got the thumbs up from his harshest critic, Rosie; so this is another treat you have to try.

A glance at their burger menu will certainly tempt you to return for lunch or dinner, to sample their famous specialty items such as the Gouda, Farmer's or Man Burger (al-



most 12 ounces of choice beef), and a Western Burger with Aarons' secret-recipe crispy onion rings. All of these can be personalized with an incredible array of toppings, (mushrooms, jala-peño peppers, bacon, cheese, lettuce, tomato...whatever, the list goes on) at absolutely no extra cost.

5 Burger portions are ENORMOUS! Aaron suggests that even their small serving of fries is enough to be shared by

two. He was very amused to watch a famous French chef demonstrating the best way to make fried potatoes on a gourmet cooking show and could only comment "He stole my recipe!"

Try them the English way-with vinegar, and you'll wonder how you ever ate fries without it. This same 5-star chef also swears by Gouda as the best topping for the ideal gourmet cheeseburger.

5 Burgers is now open early until 10-ish at night; delivery is available to both the high-rise and low-rise hotel and beach district at now extra cost for orders over \$50. Enjoy a great lunch without ever leaving the beach by calling 586-3904. However, we suggest you stop by and enjoy their authentic, heartfelt hospitality, it is not unusual for either owner to sit and chat, sharing their knowledge of the island while making sure patrons are happy with their meal.

Gold Coast Aruba: This is the time to invest

-- Management of Gold Coast Aruba, the island's newest and most innovative gated community, reports that sales have been very good and encouraging as the global economy recovers and people looking to purchase vacation homes have found that Gold Coast is an outstanding investment value. Director of Sales, Fito Croes has noticed a surprising percentage of owners in reality do not spend a great amount of time personally to use the villas or town homes they purchase, but are taking advantage of Gold Coast's rental services to turn their investment into ready income.

"The greater portion of home owners are using their 'home away from home' in Aruba to escape the winter months, or spend holidays with the family on the island," he remarked, "but I am gratified by how many are buying because they felt secure with real estate investment on Aruba. They really study the history and economy of the island and are impressed with the political stability and continually increasing value of prime locations. Gold Coast is in the heart of Malmok, considered Aruba's most exclusive community where the value of properties has only increased over time. It is only minutes to the best beaches and all the action, and yet offers a quiet and secluded getaway, we are very pleased by



the response to our concept."

Fito, with his sister Mayrin and brother Rudy operate Cas Bon, which has been constructing homes and building developments for all budgets for nearly twenty years. "Gold Coast Aruba is the jewel in our crown," observes Fito. "We were very excited about this project and the scope of actual and planned facilities and amenities. We have spoken to countless island visitors to find out what they would really want in a permanent residence on Aruba, and took from there."

Input from frequent vacationers who have dreamed of their own home in Aruba contributed to the realization of Gold Coast Aruba which when complete will be a community

of 260 town homes, villas and condominiums with a stunning clubhouse complemented by two additional community pool areas. The Clubhouse is about to start construction and will offer to the community homeowners and visitors 2 tennis courts, full service spa and fitness center as well as a stunning pool area and is expected to be complete by early 2013. It will also house a restaurant and mini-market.

Owners who purchased upon the groundbreaking only a few short years ago, are already enjoying a nearly 50% appreciation on their investment, particularly those taking advantage of the on site management's rental services program. There is always a great demand for Aruba and facili-

ties such as those at Gold Coast, make it easy for some owners to see a valuable return on their investment.

The design of the residences and public areas is open, airy and spacious, taking full advantage of the island environment, with quality construction and finishing available. Partnering with two of Aruba's top providers of kitchens and bathrooms enables developers to offer custom options allowing buyers to individualize their homes. An elegant and chic furniture package is available or island designers will assist owners in finishing the décor to their specific tastes.

There are many aspects to purchasing property; not the

least is the future value of the investment. To further enhance this, Gold Coast management have inaugurated a number of in-house services and have recently become affiliated Interval International, the world's largest network of vacation ownership properties which provides an unlimited international pool of investors to tap for ownership and rental prospects. Property exchange for a vacation in another destination is also available through the Interval International affiliation. Gold Coast's own rental services have also proven highly successful in assisting owners in renting their villas, 24-hour security and maintenance services also tip the scales when it is time to make a decision. Aside from all this, housekeeping, child care, catering services, car rental through its partnership with AVIS car rental are also available as well as pre-shopping services so cupboards and refrigerators are stocked upon arrival, which can also be arranged through their property management department. Personnel are also available to assist in arranging restaurant reservations and island activities.

Visit their website: www.goldcoastaruba.com for more details and availability or call 586-2200 to arrange a personal tour.



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SPORTS

Rooney returns for final England qualifiers



LONDON (AFP) - Wayne Rooney and Daniel Sturridge were on Thursday recalled by England manager Roy Hodgson for the decisive World Cup qualifiers at home to Montenegro and Poland later this month.

Both players missed England's last two games through injury.

Rooney has been recalled despite sitting out Manchester United's 1-1 draw away to Shakhtar Donetsk in the Champions League on Wednesday with a shin injury, but Hodgson expressed confidence about his fitness.

"We are reliably informed that it's not a serious injury and it won't stop him joining up with us," Hodgson told a press conference at Wembley Stadium.

The England manager said he was excited about the prospect of deploying Rooney and Sturridge together, the two strikers having scored 12 goals between them since the start of the season.

"I was thinking these two players are in great form," he said.

"I'm happy that at the moment things are looking very good, squad-wise.

"I'm very hopeful and very confident that this group of players, as long as they come through this weekend's games, they will take us there (to the World Cup finals in Brazil)."

England face Montenegro at Wembley on October 11, before tackling Poland at the same venue four days later.

Hodgson's side approach the two games as the leading side in European qualifying Group H and know that a pair of victories will guarantee them a berth in Brazil.

Despite the returns of Rooney and in-form Liverpool striker Sturridge, Southampton's Rickie Lambert kept his place from the squad that won 4-0 at home to Moldova and drew 0-0 in Ukraine in September.

Everton midfielder Ross Barkley and Tottenham Hotspur winger Andros Townsend were also retained, having received their first senior international call-ups for those two games.

There was a recall for United defender Phil Jones, but Liverpool full-back Glen Johnson, Arsenal wingers Theo Walcott and Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain, and West Ham United striker Andy Carroll all missed out through injury.

United winger Ashley Young and Liverpool forward Raheem Sterling were not selected.

Hodgson also gave his support to first-choice goalkeeper Joe Hart, who was criticised for being beaten at his near post twice in Manchester City's 3-1 loss at home to Bayern Munich on Wednesday.

"I think goalkeepers are always going to be in that situation," Hodgson said.

"The goalkeeper who lets a goal which people think he might have saved, I'm afraid these are the people in the firing line.

"I believe that Joe will shrug this off. I'm sure that he's not happy with the criticism and he's not happy to have let in goals that he thinks he might have stopped.

"As far as I'm concerned, he's never let me or the team down in the time I've been working with him.

"I have every confidence and every faith in him that he will have the confidence to put this behind him."

Qatar in labour rights storm amid FIFA talks

ZURICH (AFP) - Claims that migrant workers are treated like slaves in 2022 World Cup host Qatar were centre stage on Thursday as global football's governing body FIFA met behind closed doors.

Already scheduled to debate shifting the 2022 edition from the World Cup's traditional June and July slot in order to escape the stifling Gulf heat -- a plan which has angered European leagues that fear mid-season havoc -- FIFA found the spotlight shifting to alleged human rights abuses against the workers paving the way for the tournament.

But with campaigners charging that workers are paying with their lives to prepare for the global football showcase, both FIFA and Qatar tackled the concerns with waiting reporters.

With Qatar's actual stadium-building programme yet to begin, the deaths are not directly related to the football side of the World Cup, FIFA communications chief Walter De Gregorio underlined.

"But any death is a death too many," he said. "We are very much aware of the situation."

"Together, I think, we're going to find a solution to improve, or maybe to change, the situation that for sure, for everybody, is unacceptable," he said.

FIFA has held regular discussions with international human rights groups and unions for two years, De Gregorio noted.

"We're trying to put pressure on Qatar to change a situation which is unacceptable for all concerned. But I want to highlight that it's not FIFA against Qatar. We're all on the same page, trying to change the situation for the better of everyone. Qatar can change, and Qatar is very open to all discussions we're having," he added.

Hassan Al Thawadi, head of Qatar's World Cup committee, said worker deaths were a stark issue and insisted the government was dealing with it.

"When you reach the point where people die, it always raises issues of humanity. Is this acceptable? Of course it isn't. The government has said so quite clearly," he said as he arrived at FIFA's building in a leafy suburb overlooking Zurich.

"We are going to ensure the security, the protection and the honour of everyone. We've worked to that pledge, will continue to do so, and will always give it the utmost priority," he added.

The rights issue reached fever pitch after a report last week by British daily The Guardian on Nepalese workers at World Cup projects.

Quoting documents from Nepal's embassy in Qatar it said thousands of Nepalese -- at 370,000 the second largest group of labourers in Qatar after Indians -- faced "modern-day slavery" and that dozens had died in recent weeks.

Beyond the fatalities, critics also slam the confiscation of passports, withholding wages for long periods, debts to recruiters, insufficient drinking water in scorching temperatures, and squalid camps for labourers.

The World Cup has added intensity to ongoing criticism of several Gulf states' rules on foreign workers.

Amnesty International said it would publish an in-depth report next month on Qatar, the world's wealthiest nation per capita.

Ex-factor for International X Games events in 2014



NEW YORK CITY (AFP) - International X Games events in France, Brazil, Germany and Spain will not be staged

in 2014 but two US events remain on the schedule, organizer and telecaster ESPN announced Thursday.

The extreme sports competitions -- featuring such events as snowboarding, motocross, skateboarding and rally car racing -- had been staged in Munich, Barcelona, Tignes, France and Foz do Iguaçu, Brazil.

"We are proud to have run world-class competitions for both the athletes and spectators," ESPN said in a statement.

"However the overall economics of these events do not provide a sustainable future path."

US X Games events will be staged next January in Aspen, Colorado, and next May in Austin, Texas.

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Storm-hit Presidents Cup resumes with US in command

Continued from pg 16



Matt Kuchar and Tiger Woods of the U.S. Team

Woods is a five-time winner at the Memorial, the US tour event played at Muirfield Village, while Kuchar is the

reigning Memorial champion.

Kuchar birdied to win the first hole and Woods dropped an eight-foot birdie putt to win the sixth to give the US duo a 2-up edge.

South Africans Branden Grace and Richard Sterne were 4-down after six holes in their Presidents Cup debut against 2007 Masters winner Zach Johnson and 2013 PGA Championship winner Jason Dufner. The oldest and youngest US players, 46-year-old Steve Stricker and 20-year-old Jordan Spieth, led 2-up after seven over South African Ernie Els, a five-time major winner, and Zimbabwe's Brendon de Jonge.

Stricker won the first with a birdie but the Africans won the second hole with a par. Stricker responded by winning the third with a five-foot birdie and the seventh with a birdie after Els missed a four-foot birdie putt.

Hunter Mahan and 2012 PGA playoff winner Brandt Snedeker led 1-up through 10 over Australia's Jason Day and DeLaet.

DeLaet birdied from 12 feet but Mahan birdied the second to square the match. Snedeker followed with a birdie at three and Mahan birdied the fourth to put the US duo 2-up.

Snedeker sank the fifth US birdie in a row from 25 feet to win the sixth for a 3-up edge, but Day answered with a birdie to capture the par-5 seventh and a par 3 to take the eighth.

World number two Adam Scott, who last April became the first Aussie to win the Masters, and 21-year-old Japanese star Hideki Matsuyama were 1-down after nine to 2012 US Open winner Webb Simpson and 2011 PGA playoff champion Bill Haas.

Simpson opened with a seven-foot birdie to give the American duo the edge and matched birdies with Scott to halve the third and fourth holes. The Aussie birdied the par-5 fifth and seventh to halve as well. Haas birdied to win the par-3 eighth but Scott won the ninth with a birdie.

South Africans Louis Oosthuizen and Charl Schwartzel, both major winners, were square after nine with five-time major winner Phil Mickelson, the reigning British Open champion who is the only player to compete in every Presidents Cup, and Keegan Bradley, the 2011 PGA Championship winner.

Mickelson birdied to win the first hole, then Schwartzel birdied to win the second and Mickelson answered with a three-foot birdie at the par-3 fourth.

Bradley eagled to win the par-5 seventh for a 2-up lead, but Oosthuizen answered with a 20-foot birdie to win the par-3 eighth and Schwartzel birdied the ninth to level the match.

It takes 17 1/2 points to win the Cup with the four-ball matches followed by six alternate-shot foursomes Friday, five four-ball and five foursomes matches Saturday and 12 concluding Sunday singles.

MLB: Rays blank Indians to advance in playoffs



Delmon Young of the Tampa Bay Rays watches his solo home run in the third inning

CLEVELAND (AFP) - Delmon Young smacked a home run and the Tampa Bay Rays defeated the Cleveland Indians 4-0 on Wednesday to advance in the Major League Baseball playoffs.

By capturing the one-game wildcard matchup, the Rays reached an American League divisional series against the top-seeded Boston Red Sox, who went 12-7 against Tampa Bay this season.

Oakland and Detroit meet in the other AL playoff series.

Young led off the third inning with a solo homer to the left-field stands to put the Rays on top and Desmond Jennings added a two-out, two-run double in the fourth to give Tampa Bay a 3-0 edge.

The Indians, hosting their first playoff game since 2007, left the bases loaded without pushing home a run in the fourth inning and stranded two base runners in the fifth.

Cleveland stranded two base runners again in the seventh, when relief pitcher Joel Peralta entered for the Rays

with two outs in place of starter Alex Cobb and struck out Nick Swisher to end the threat.

"The adrenaline was going pretty fast early in the game," Cobb said. "My stuff wasn't the best but the guys made it work. When Delmon hit that home run, it got a lot better."

In the eighth, reliever Jake McGee entered for Tampa Bay with two outs and a runner on first and struck out Ryan Raburn to end the inning.

The Rays added an insurance run in the ninth inning when Yunel Escobar singled to right field to score Ben Zobrist from third base.

Rays reliever Fernando Rodney entered in the final inning and retired the last three Cleveland batters to complete the triumph.

Tampa Bay and the Texas Rangers each finished the regular season 91-71, forcing a tie-breaker game Monday for the last playoff spot that the Rays won 5-2 at Texas to earn the right to face the Indians.

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Printed by
Diario N.V.

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LeBron tops global jersey sales with Rose second



that I continue to inspire the youth.

"When you wear someone's jersey, you actually like believe in them."

Chicago's Derrick Rose, the 2011 NBA MVP who missed last season due to injury, was second overall and had the top-selling jersey in Europe, Latin America and China.

Kobe Bryant of the Los Angeles Lakers was third followed by Oklahoma City's Kevin Durant and Miami guard Dwyane Wade.

New York's Carmelo Anthony was sixth followed by Dwight Howard,

whose fans will need new jerseys after his switch from the Lakers to Houston for this season.

Brooklyn's Deron Williams was eighth with Blake Griffin of the Los Angeles Clippers ninth, Boston's Rajon Rondo 10th and Canada's Steve Nash of the Lakers topping non-US players at 11th.

James led US jersey sales as well as in the Philippines and was second to Rose in Europe and China. Bryant was second in Latin America with James third.

NEW YORK CITY (AFP) - LeBron James, who has guided the Miami Heat to the past two NBA titles, is the worldwide leader in jersey sales for the first time, the league announced Thursday.

Without releasing actual sales figures, the NBA listed the top player sales in global replica jerseys, bringing the reigning NBA Most Valuable Player a sense of pride.

"It means everything," James said. "To know that so many people look up to me, so many kids, that's what means more than anything."

Storm-hit Presidents Cup resumes with US in command

COLUMBUS (AFP) - International golfers hoped to change their momentum Thursday as play resumed at the Presidents Cup after a storm delay of nearly 90 minutes with the United States in firm command.

The Americans, celebrating the 54th birthday of US captain Fred Couples, led five matches and were all square in the other four-ball pairing at Muirfield Village on the first day of the biennial battle with the non-European side. The US team leads the rivalry 7-1-1. The Internationals, losers of four in a row, have not led after any session since the second day in 2005 and led only once before Thursday's storm, when Canada's Graham DeLaet birdied the first hole of the opening match.

World number one Tiger Woods, a 14-time major champion and US PGA Player of the Year, and Matt Kuchar, this year's World Golf Championships Match Play winner, were 2-up through six holes over Argentina's Angel Cabrera, a two-time major winner, and 61st-ranked Australian Marc Leishman.

Continued on pg 15

4.5 million World Cup tickets requested so far, says FIFA



RIO DE JANEIRO (AFP) - More than 4.5 million tickets have already been requested for the World Cup in Brazil, a week before the initial sales period ends, FIFA said Thursday.

"This impressive total so far underlines the extraordinary level of interest in this 20th FIFA World Cup being played next year in the country of the five-time world champions," FIFA

marketing director Thierry Weil said in a statement.

The opening phase ends October 10 at 1000GMT but "football fans who apply by next Thursday have as good a chance of obtaining tickets as those who have already applied, as all applications made from the beginning to the end of the sales window are collected together and drawn on a lottery basis when the number of requests exceeds the tickets available," added Weil.

FIFA said three quarters of requests were from the host nation -- amounting to more than 3.4 million tickets. Fans in Argentina requested 223,686 with 175,122 coming from the United States.

Requests came in from more than 200 countries, football's governing body said. There are three price categories for the showpiece, starting June 12 next year.

Some 300,000 will be reserved in a special category for less well off Brazilians.

Overall, Brazil, straining to overhaul its creaking infrastructure for its first World Cup since 1950, hopes to welcome around 600,000 foreign tourists for the sporting spectacular.



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